



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Public Instruction  
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

\*\*\* NEWS RELEASE \*\*\*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DPI 2006-141

Wednesday, October 25, 2006

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## La Crosse to receive \$150,000 in continuous improvement grants

MADISON—The La Crosse School District will receive \$150,000 in grants to help it meet its goals for improving student achievement.

“The efforts of the La Crosse School District to partner with its community to improve student achievement serves as a model for the rest of the state,” said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster.

“These grants will help La Crosse lift achievement for all students and close the gap between students of color, economically disadvantaged students, and their peers.”

La Crosse will receive a school improvement grant of \$100,000, which may be used for a number of activities, which include increasing student tutoring; expanding summer school programming; providing professional staff development; purchasing supplemental instructional materials; developing early intervention programs with students, teachers, parents, and the community; and strengthening student literacy and numeracy through community and parent involvement.

The district also is receiving a \$30,000 early literacy grant. The grant can be used to create partnerships to encourage early literacy through physical activity and nutrition lessons during school or in after-school settings; expand

early literacy opportunities and teacher competencies by using the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards (WMELS) to guide curriculum and improve program quality; strengthen partnerships among schools and public libraries; or enhance existing Even Start Family Literacy programs.

“Early learning activities are vital in our efforts to close the achievement gap because they lay the foundation for reading and all other learning,” Burmaster said. “Ensuring that students are reading

(more)

### Continuous Improvement Grants

**La Crosse School District — \$150,000**

District School Improvement Grant	\$100,000
Early Literacy Grant	\$30,000
REACH Grant	\$20,000

at or above grade level in the early years will work toward stronger achievement in the middle and high school years.”

Additionally, La Crosse will receive a \$20,000 district incentive grant for the Responsive Education for All Children (REACH) Initiative. REACH helps schools make systemic improvements that reduce barriers to learning and enable all students, including those with disabilities, to experience academic success. La Crosse will be among districts implementing a coordinated, multi-tiered model of evidence-based instructional options, universal screening, and ongoing progress monitoring.

The grants are funded from the federal Title I Program, part of the reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 2001, also known as the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. La Crosse received funding based on school progress on the four annual measurable objectives used to determine adequate yearly progress under Wisconsin’s plan to meet accountability requirements of NCLB. The objectives are test participation, graduation and attendance criteria, and achievement levels in reading and mathematics.

“It is our shared value to educate all children to their highest level of achievement. Investing in the continuous improvement efforts in La Crosse is an important part of the future social and economic health of our entire state,” Burmaster said.

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